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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/717,979	11/20/2003	Bernard Strong		8154

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EXAMINER

BRINSON, PATRICK F

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3754

DATE MAILED: 03/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/717,979

Applicant(s)

STRONG, BERNARD

Examiner

Patrick F. Brinson

Art Unit

3754

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8-16, 18 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4-19-04

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the subject matter recited in claims 6, 7 and 16 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered. The drawings fail to show a serrated shear edge or a container having two bulbs.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective

action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. Claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims 1 and 11 recite a hollow port, however this port is closed and therefore is no longer a port in the finished product. Claims 1 and 11 actually recite the product at an intermediate stage of production. Similarly claim 11 recites the proximal and distal ends of the fill port as being selected from ellipital, circular and diamond shapes, however, again the end of the tube is flat due to sealing.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

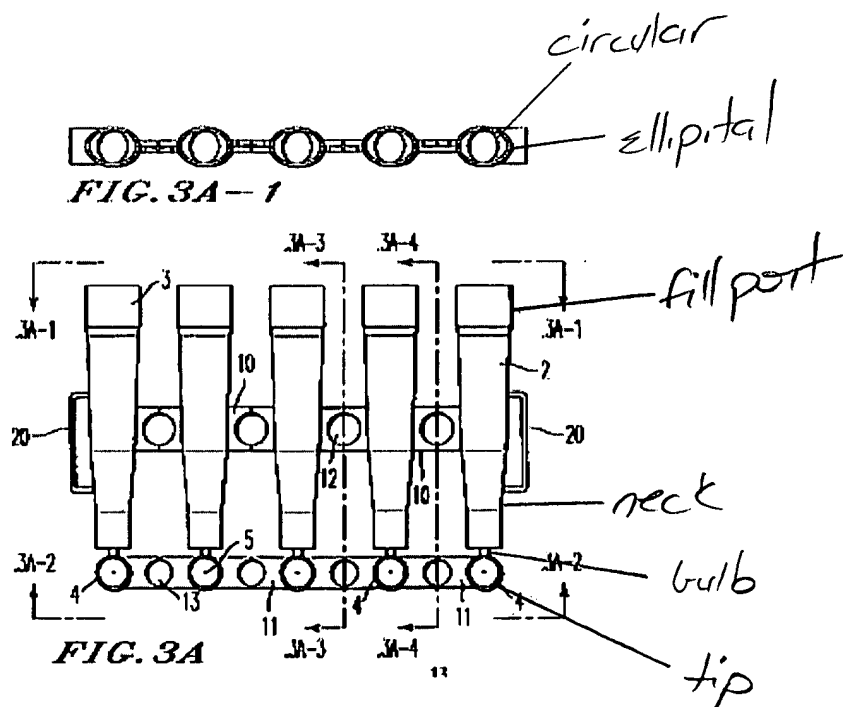
3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, 8-15, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 6,116,449 to Chiesi et al.

The patent to **Chiesi et al.** discloses a container having a dispensing end and a filling end, wherein fig. 3A-1 best illustrates the filling end having a hollow fill port comprising a circular end proximal to the body and an elliptical end distal to the body, as recited in claims 1 and 11. Additionally, this figure discloses the distal end defining an opening suitable for use in filling the body with a product and the distal end tapers down to the proximal end. The dispensing end comprises a hollow neck in communication with the cavity at the proximal end of the hollow neck with respect to the body and a tip at a distal end of the hollow neck with respect to the body, with the tip comprising a bulb defining a cavity in communication with the hollow neck. The circular end flares out in a generally lateral direction to create the elliptical end, as recited in claim 9, and therefore the elliptical end tapers down to the circular end, as recited in claim 10.



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

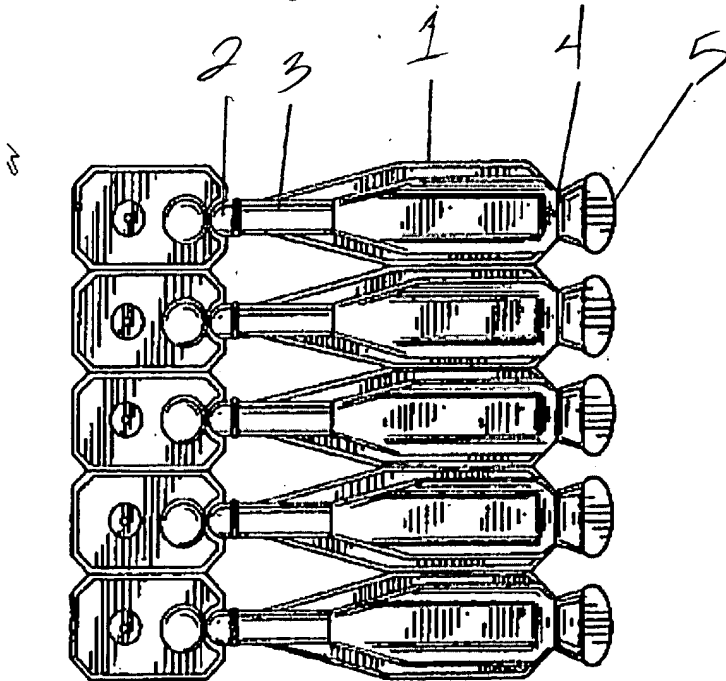
(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over D330,160 to **Umekawa** in view of U.S. 4,512,475 to **Federighi**.

The **Umekawa** reference discloses a package of containers, each container including a body defining a cavity (1), the body comprising a dispensing end, and what appears to be a filling end, with the fill port comprising a circular end (4) and an elliptical end (5) distal to the body, as recited in claim 1. The dispensing end comprises a hollow neck (3) in communication with the cavity at the proximal end of the hollow neck with respect to the body and a tip at a distal end of the hollow neck with respect to the body, with the tip comprising a bulb (2) defining a cavity in communication with the hollow neck. The circular end flares out in a generally lateral direction to create the elliptical end, as recited in claim 9, and therefore the elliptical end tapers down to the circular end, as recited in claim 10. **Umekawa** appears to disclose all of the recited structure, but being a design reference, there is no specific disclosure as to the function of the elements listed. The patent to **Federighi** discloses

a dose container (10) including a body portion (11) having a tapered section (13) terminating at its upper end in a cylindrical neck portion (14). The lower end of the body portion is initially open to facilitate filling of a product and after filling is adapted to be sealed by application of heat and pressure to provide a welded seam.

Fig. 1 discloses the end portion (16) flaring out from the body (12) thereby providing an elliptical shaped end. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the end of **Umekawa** so as to facilitate the filling of the container with a liquid material, as suggested by **Federighi**, in the event that the end of **Umekama** doesn't already function as a hollow fill port in order to insert liquid into the container.



Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 7 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The patents to Thomas, Federighi et al., van Cromvoirt, Ikeda, Welker, III et al., and Tignor are all pertinent to Applicant's invention in disclosing liquid filled containers most having filling ends and dispensing ends of the tear away type.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Patrick F. Brinson** whose telephone number is (571) 272-4897. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Michael Y. Mar** can be reached on (571) 272-4906. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Patrick F. Brinson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3754

P. F. Brinson
March 16, 2006